LAKE VERMILION - SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK
1379 Stuntz Bay Rd., P.O. Box 335, Soudan, MN 55782

February 2016

Dear Boy Scout Troop/Trip Leader,

As you plan your trip to the BWCA, I encourage you to visit Lake Vermilion - Soudan Underground Mine State Park, home of the Soudan Underground Mine. The Soudan Underground Mine is a National Historic Landmark, which means it played a major role in the history of the United States of America. The iron ore mine operated from 1882 to 1962. The facility became a state park in 1965, at which point we began offering tours of the underground.

During the mine tour, visitors travel in a "cage" half a mile underground to the 27th level. From here they travel by train three-quarters of a mile to the former working part of the mine. While on tour, visitors see the tools that were used in mining, experience the mining process of 1962, and learn how underground mining has changed over the years. This is an incredible opportunity to experience history first hand and it helps satisfy part of the Boy Scout Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge (visiting a National Historic Landmark). The tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours and we can accommodate up to 34 individuals per tour time slot.

If you are traveling from the Twin Cities or Duluth or Giant's Ridge Resort you will pass right by the park. We are approximately 35 minutes from Giant's Ridge and another 25 minutes from Ely (45 minutes from the Boy Scout camp). To assist Boy Scout groups, we have begun offering mine tours (by reservation only) at 9:30 am. This should enable Scout groups to visit the park, travel to Ely for lunch (DQ, Subway, other local establishments) and still have time for shopping before their scheduled arrival time at the Boy Scout camp. As an added bonus we offer Scout groups, that reserve tours at least **15 days** in advance, a dollar discount for each adult (ages 13 and above) ticket. In 2007, we eliminated the requirement for visitors to purchase a vehicle permit for our park, so your tour tickets are your only expense.

During the summer (Memorial Weekend to Labor Day) we offer public mine tours at least every hour from 10 am to 4 pm. Therefore, if the 9:30 am tour time does not fit your schedule, we can make other arrangements. We also offer tours of the underground physics lab (approximately 1.25 hours long), which includes activities that help participants fulfill part of their Nuclear Science Merit Badge (visiting a laboratory). You can take both tours, but you should allow at least 3 hours. Please call for more information.

Tours fill quickly; so if you are interested in reserving a tour or if you have questions, please call me at 218-300-7005 or email me at lakevermilion-soudan.statepark@state.mn.us. Attached is a brochure that provides more information about the mine and physics lab tours. I look forward to working with you. Have a safe and enjoyable trip.

Sincerely,

James Pointer
Interpreter Supervisor

Attachment: Soudan Underground Mine Brochure